Attorney-General Lewis Runs Greatest Law Office

Has 13,500 Live Actions, Involving Many Millions, Pending, but Has Cleared Docket Left Over for Years

FEW people realize that the Attorney-General of New York State is the head of the largest law office in the world. Not even the Department of Justice at Washington or the office of legal adviser to the King of England equals in volume of business the Attorney-General's office of New York State. This is true as regards both the number of cases pending and the money and property values involved in those cases.

Merton E. Lewis of Rochester, who was chosen by the last Legislature for the post following the resignation of Egburt E. Woodbury, is now director of the work and policies of this great law office. He was the unanimous choice of the Democratic and Republican members of the Legislature to serve until the general election, when he will stand for election.

Except the Governor there is no more important officer in the State administration than the Attorney-General. He is at once the adviser of the Governor and the counsellor of all the State departments in matters of State policy. He is called upon to give scores of legal opinions every week in the year in addition to preparing for trial and trying hundreds of cases involving legal questions affecting every activity of the State, counties, cities, towns and villages.

There are pending in the office of the Attorney-General at the present time over 13,500 live actions and proceedings. These actions involve money and property values estimated at between one hundred and fifty and one hundred and seventy-five millions of dollars.

The enlargement and improvement of the canal system of the State made it necessary for the State to acquire a great number of parcels of land owned by individuals along the line of the canal and for terminal purposes in the canal cities and towns of the State. These lands were taken by the State in most cases without the consent of the owners, who under the law were required to file claims for the value of the properties taken with the Court of Claims.

Cases have also arisen in connection with the construction work of the canal system. Many cases have grown out of the cancellation of contracts for failure of contractors to perform. Claims have been filed for extra compensation for work not specified in the contracts. Numerous cases have arisen and claims have been filed against the State for damages to individuals and to property rights caused by construction work in connection with the canal's improvement.

Cases Quickly Disposed Of.

At the commencement of the service of Attorney-General Lewis there were pending in the Attorney-General's office claims amounting to more than $60,000,000. In the preceding Democratic administration these claims had accumulated much faster than they had been disposed of. One of the early acts of Attorney-General Lewis was to organize in the office of the Attorney-General a bureau with an adequate force of experienced and capable trial lawyers whose only duty is to prepare thoroughly and try the claims pending before the Court of Claims.

This work has progressed steadily. The Court of Claims was reorganized with a view of dealing with the situation as promptly and rapidly as possible in order that the citizens of the State whose properties had been taken from them might receive the reasonable value thereof at the earliest practicable moment and the State treasury saved the rapidly accruing interest charges on awards.

Since the reorganization of the Court of Claims and the creation of this bureau the deputies of the Attorney-General have actually tried or had dismissed before that court 2,535 cases; the amount of money involved in such claims is $34,942,909, and the amount awarded, so far as awards have been made to date, is $5,471,349.

In connection with all this litigation it has been necessary for the Attorney-General to examine and approve the titles of thousands of parcels of land. To accomplish such examination and approval he created in his office a bureau known as the title examination bureau.

Under previous administrations there had been a delay in the examination of titles which had resulted in an accumulation in the office of the Attorney-General and which had also necessarily resulted in long and tedious delays in the payment to the owners of the value of the lands taken from them even after such value had been determined by the court or by agreement. Under previous administrations it had been the practice to farm out titles to lawyers in private practice scattered about the State. Such titles would be examined by these lawyers at their convenience. There was little supervision and apparently no haste.

All this has been changed. All titles are now examined by examiners appointed by the Attorney-General from a civil service list and approved as promptly and as rapidly as the force available for that purpose can accomplish and complete the examinations.

Novel Questions Decided.

The enactment of the so-called workmen's compensation act has also operated to increase very materially the work of the Attorney-General and his staff. This law took effect in 1914. No previous Attorney-General had this problem to deal with, for the practical workings of the compensation law began about the same time as the present administration of the Attorney-General's office.

Thousands of awards have been made by the Industrial Commission, and many difficult and novel questions of law constantly arise under the statute which have required careful attention and study of the Attorney-General, for he is, under the statute, required to argue all appeals from the awards of the commission. There are at present pending in the Appellate Division and in the Court of Appeals hundreds of appeals.

The physical labor of preparing the briefs to be used in the argument of such cases has been enormous. There have been actually argued in the appellate courts since January 1, 1915, over 500 cases. Among these were four cases involving the constitutionality and application of the law in the Supreme Court of the United States. The Attorney-General successfully upheld the validity of the compensation law.

Under the statutes too it is the duty of the Attorney-General to sit as a member of the Canal Board, the Land Board, the State Printing Board, the State Board of Equalization and act as the legal adviser of the Governor and all the State officers, boards, commissions and bureaus. Many troublesome and difficult questions have arisen during the past two years which have required careful study and deep and comprehensive knowledge of the law for their solution. The Attorney-General has consistently met every demand upon his time and ability.

No Opinion Yet Reversed.

The opinions of the Attorney-General rendered since January 1, 1915, have involved a close study of many difficult and intricate questions. Litigations have arisen and questions have been passed upon by the Attorney-General which later have been subjected to the scrutiny of the courts, and in no instance thus far has the opinion of the Attorney-General been reversed by the court of last resort.

The exercise of the criminal law powers of the Attorney-General has been frequently requested of late by the Governor. The Attorney-General has been compelled to step in in the various counties of the State, supplant the District Attorney and conduct the prosecution of persons accused of various crimes. The Barnet Baff murder case is the latest example of the exercise of the common law powers of the Attorney-General.

Since 1914 under the administrations of Attorneys-General Egburt E. Woodbury and Merton E. Lewis, his successor, the Attorney-General's office has made something of a record in this respect, having been called upon by the Governor to supersede District Attorneys in a dozen or more important cases. In these three years the deputies of the Attorney-General have been engaged constantly in the trial of one or more of these cases.

The more familiar cases prosecuted by the Attorney-General under superseding orders are the Barnet Baff murder, the Cleary forgeries, the Stellow murder case, the Onondaga County Tuberculosis Sanitarium scandal, the Niagara County Fair disclosures, the Great Meadow Prison graft, the perjury cases upon which hinged charges made by James F. Delehanty against District Attorney Swann of New York and the prosecution of E. D. Talbot, village clerk of Cornwall, for alleged irregularities.

The Stellow case, the details of which are familiar to the public, constitutes one of the most interesting murder cases ever prosecuted in New York State. Convicted of murder and sentenced five times to the death chair to expiate the murder of Charles B. Phelps and his housekeeper, Stellow was snatched from the shadow of the death house at Sing Sing in the eleventh hour.

Gov. Whitman commuted his death sentence to life imprisonment and a short time afterward requested Attorney-General Lewis to supersede the District Attorney of Orleans county, where the murder was committed, and to make a sweeping investigation of the whole case. This case is now engaging the attention of the Attorney-General and his special deputy, George H. Bond of Syracuse. What will be uncovered by the exercise of the criminal powers of the Attorney-General in this instance is still a matter of conjecture.

MERTON E. LEWIS

Clearing Up Baff Case.

The murder in New York city of Barnet Baff, a wealthy poultry dealer, whose business judgment made him a formidable competitor of other Washington Market poultrymen, was successfully investigated recently under the direction of the Attorney-General by his second deputy, Alfred L. Becker. This crime, which stirred New York city almost to the same extent as the Rosenthal murder, required the attention of the Attorney-General, the Governor believed.

Under a superseding order the Attorney-General succeeded in convicting Joseph Cohen, known as "King of the Chicken Pullers," of murder first degree and Abraham Graff, another Washington Market figure, of manslaughter. But the case is by no means settled as yet. Deputy Attorney-General Becker, who laid the groundwork of the investigation, declared recently that he has no intention of quitting with the conviction of Cohen and Graff.

After Deputy Becker superseded District Attorney Swann in this case he received information to the effect that Joseph Arichiello, awaiting the infliction of the death penalty in Sing Sing for the murder of Baff, was not the real gunman. Indications now are that Arichiello will be given a new trial. He was saved from the chair by the testimony of Antonio Cardinale, who is alleged to have acted as the go-between for the paid gunman and the competitors of Baff.

Cardinale was brought back from Italy for the purposes of the trial. He was a corporal in the Italian army when arrested. The story of Cardinale was supported by testimony given by "Chicken Moe," another Washington Market character, who pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree and acted as a witness against the defendants Cohen and Graff. The State promises that the tentacles of the law will be extended to reach every person who played a part in the Baff murder.

An intercontinental chase for the arch criminal in the famous Onondaga County Tuberculosis Hospital graft case constitutes one of the most interesting details of the Attorney-General's supersession of the District Attorneys. Charles F. Mott, who was afterward convicted of larceny in connection with the building of the hospital, disappeared from Syracuse the very day the Grand Jury returned an indictment against him.

At the time it looked as if the peculations growing out of the construction of the institution would evoke punishment for none of those responsible. Attorney-General Woodbury intervened at this point and detailed Deputy Becker to find Mott and probe to the bottom of the case. The people of Onondaga were insistent that Mott be apprehended and his associates punished for the crimes disclosed by a superficial investigation made by the Board of Supervisors.

After trailing Mott for 8,000 miles Deputy Becker landed him in Asuncion, Paraguay. Before Mott could be returned to this country one of the contractors on the job blew out his brains. Mott in due course was tried and convicted. He is now serving a long term in Auburn prison.

Santals, After Centuries, Again in Mesopotamia

Ancient People From Hills of Bengal Work Under Far Different Conditions Than in Pre-Biblical Days

INTO the melting pot of nations and races that England has set to fight and to labor in this war she has poured no quainter or more ancient people than the Santals from the hill tracts of Bengal, who are being brought this autumn to work behind the lines in Mesopotamia.

Babylon might well feel that the centuries had rolled away the tons of earth above her buried past, for the Santals were as they are to-day, when Nebuchadnezzar ruled over the wicked city. And the Babylonian must have known the Santal. There were indubitably captive Santals with Aryan mercenaries who fought the Hittites in the sixteenth century before Christ; and when Aryan hordes swept over the Caucasus range in the days of Assurbanipal there can be no doubt that they brought with them their vassal Santals for Assyrians and Babylonians alike to look upon.

These pre-Biblical peoples were so accustomed to the spectacle of captives and slaves that they did not distinguish one kind from another in their inscriptions; and as the Santals have no written language, no monuments or cuneiform records we of to-day have no means other than their vague, indeterminate legends of guessing at how much of their ancestors the Babylonians saw.

But the Santal was born to labor and, when he could not escape en masse, to serve ancients and moderns. He is a cheerful, contented, willing fellow, who knows not at all what interest attaches to him. Three dynasties of Babylonia, Assyria, Chaldæa and the empire of the Chosroes rose and crumbled in the very dust where the British have now set him to dig, and all that time and through the centuries since he has led a simple, childlike and, with one exception, contented life, no matter what his condition, not far from the Golden Age of his material existence.

Victimized by Brahmans.

He plays on the flute to-day the same pastoral strains one hears only in villages of the East—the same plaintive melodies his pipes sang a thousand years before the coming of Christ. At home he reaps the same sort of harvests, tends the same kind of flocks, thinks the same thoughts his ancestors thought hundreds of years ago, and tells the same legends in much the same language they used. An ancient Babylonian or Semite could understand him better than we.

The British, however, have not done so badly at understanding him, since 1885 at least. He is too good natured to fight. When his preserves are encroached upon, he picks up his house, his wife, his crops, his animals, his children and relatives, and flees.

But he is invariably pursued by the crafty Brahman who settles near him, no matter where he goes, and proceeds to profit by his industry and simplicity. In the early days of British Administration in India the English gave the Santals lands and appointed an English officer to look after them. But one white man could not outwit hundreds of wily Hindus who knew that the Santal farmers and their lands were promising spoil.

These suave fellows overran the lands of the Santal, short weighted and short changed him, lent him money at usurious interest and took security and payment in the labor of him and his. The guileless Santal and his whole family found themselves slaves of a Hindu master.

Many of the tribes stuck to their old habit of flight and disappeared into the jungles. But enough of them to count remained and rebelled. Together with the Nats, another hill tribe, they assembled and swooped down upon the lowlands, plundering and killing their oppressors.

The British Government found quelling this rising no easy matter, but the happening of itself brought the justice of Santal grievances into notice. Thereafter, by persuasive means, by the appointment of several English officers and by laws curbing the Brahman peace was secured. The fortunate building of a railroad through the district, with its attendant need of labor at wages that made the Santal's eyes pop, helped in the general adjustment of conditions. These little men want to work and work hard.

To-day they have become one of the most prosperous and peaceful localities in India, and the English mean to keep them so.

Most Honest of Folks.

Wherefore the Santal is not warring now. The Government has made a contract with him to labor well behind the trenches at making roads, building houses, loading and unloading ships and trucks, perfecting communicating lines, tilling the soil and rendering habitable in countless ways the territory already won. It is stipulated that he is not to go up to the fighting zone.

The British officers who have charge of him appreciate his exceptional points and his worthy peculiarities.

"They are the straightest people I ever struck," says one of these Englishmen. "We recruited them in the district, made our contracts, paid them a month's wages in advance—and that's quite a lot of money up there—and to'd them to find their way to the nearest railway station, a journey of two or three days. They all turned up but one. They are very honest, law abiding folk. They leave their money lying in their tents, and it is quite safe. They have no police in their villages; the headman settles all their troubles.

"And there is no humbug about them. Other coolies slack off if you don't watch them and will put on a tremendous spurt when they see an officer coming along. But the dear old Santal is much too simple for this. If the army commander came to see them they'd throw down their picks and shovels and stare till he went away. Then they'd fall to work vigorously again.

"They are not thrusters. They go their own pace, but they do their day's work all right. And they are extraordinarily patient and willing and faithful."

Men of the golden age, indeed!

The British officers who were forced to put down the Santal rebellion spoke and wrote in highest terms of these little men, even after so short and so troubled an acquaintance. "They did not use poisoned arrows," they declared in negativing a rumor in England. "They fought like men and gentlemen, bravely and chivalrously. They are absolutely truthful and dependable, and when they rose they had a real grievance."

To be encyclopædic, the Santals are an aboriginal tribe of Bengal, numbering about 2,000,000, and they speak a language of the Munda or Kolarian family. Because there is no education among the Santals, no written characters whatsoever, the tongue they speak is rather shrivelled and disintegrated, the remains of an ancient language, but not that language itself. The Sanskrit alphabet exactly represents all its sounds, an interesting fact that establishes the antiquity and unchangeableness of these people.

The Santals impress the observer directly as belonging to a higher type of race that has been forced to more primitive conditions; not as men risen from a primordial state to something better. Their villages are neat, clean and well built, and they are set well away in the hills, isolated from each other. But although their villages are comfortable they are a migratory race by nature and instinct. They want woods in which to cut material for their pipes, drums, bows and arrows, untouched soil to turn up for their crops. As soon as their prosperity has exhausted the soil and thinned out a forest—it takes about a century to do this—they are ready to move on.

The civic plan of each village is purely patriarchal, as in the centuries when pre-Biblical tribes roamed Mesopotamia. Each community is fathered by a headman (Manjhi) who is acclaimed as descended from the founder of the settlement. He appoints a deputy to look after details of government, two special officers (Paramanik) to superintend the morals of children, and a watchman to protect the villagers from fire and intrusion of wild beasts and strangers. They do not like strangers.

As there are no armies and no police so there are neither jails nor gibbets. The patriarch metes out punishment when punishment is due, but it must be recorded that there is little or no punishment needed by such unspoiled, childlike people. Among pure blooded Santals crime and criminals are unknown. So, too, one never sees a beggar in a Santal village. They are all industrious and highminded.

Dance Craze Holds Them.

They have many gods and many festivals at home, but they are not quite sure what they believe of their gods. They have, generally speaking, no idea of a good god, but demons and evil spirits are propitiated and ancestors are worshipped at stated festivals. A vague theory of a future life exists, of a place where the spirits of the dead ceaselessly grind the bones of past generations into a dust from which the gods recreate children.

But if they are uncertain about their gods they are not about holidays. Each is observed scrupulously and merrily when they are at home. Before the house of the headman is an open space reserved exclusively for dancing and dancers. All dancing is elaborately done and beautiful, and marks every festival.

It marks every evening also. Your Santal plays his pipes as naturally as he breathes, and the girls flock like graceful birds to the call of his melody. Each night after supper the boys gather before the headman's house with flowers and peacock feathers stuck jauntily in their hair and begin to play.

In a moment from every house come tripping girls, flowers in their smooth hair, heavy ornaments jangling on their arms and legs. They join hands with the boys, standing so close together that the shoulder of each girl touches the back of the boy ahead of her, forming the arc of a circle, in the centre of which stand the pipe players, dancing, too.

The members of the arc dance toward the centre and retire again, with each retirement moving slightly toward the right. In an hour they have danced themselves into a complete circle. Their legs move as one, the grace and harmony of movement being very effective. They never tire.

Santal boys and girls have more freedom than American children. Every evening they dance thus and wander home together in the moonlight long after midnight, when the elders of the village are wrapped in slumber. Chaperons are not furnished.

Child marriages are not tolerated, as in other parts of India, and love matches are the rule among the young dancers. The patriarch encourages and blesses each union. One wife is the universal custom, and her position compares favorably with that of any wife in the same layer of Occidental intelligence.

Her husband treats her as an equal in all things, except that he finishes a meal before she sits down to it. As she is her own servant, just as he is his own hired man, too much emphasis need not be placed on this mark of inferiority. The Santal wife has never been the manifest inferior, as far back as the legends of the Santals go. On the contrary, a folk song lately heard for the first time by a white traveller in a Santal district hints of a time when woman took her place in the councils of the headman—at about the same time, perhaps, when women were the civic equals of man in Babylonia. That may have been 5,000 years ago, when the Santals dwelt in the plains of India.

Some time subsequent to this they moved or were driven to the jungles and the mountains. Why, we do not know. They have no history. The theory is that they, the original dwellers with others on the plains, were driven by the conquering Aryans into the barren hills and unhealthful forests, where they have since remained, migrating further into the jungles every few centuries.

Nearly every man is a musician and plays the pipe of Pan or the drum. If he has no forest to run to he will make a flute of any material he happens to stumble upon. One of them in Mesopotamia blew off two of his fingers while boring stops in the brass tube of a Turkish shell he found lying around. It had a fuse and an unexploded charge in it.

They are bright, joy loving little men, shorter than the average Hindu, with a round, blubbery sort of face, fairly prominent cheek bones, eyes full and large and straight, quite lacking any Mongolian slant. The nose is depressed, the mouth large, the lips full, and the hair black, coarse and straight.

They are a negroid type more than a Mongolian or Malayan, but in intelligence and character they differ radically from the negro. Still, they are not Caucasians. In Mesopotamia, where they are being better fed than in their native wilds, and where the elements and occupation seem peculiarly to agree with them, their round black cheeks have grown so fat that the skin looks as though it had been sewn up tightly and tucked under their chins, their eyes pop out at each strange sight, and they look for all the world as though they were overjoyed little golliwogs allowed to go a-picnicking among white men.

Play as They Work.

A soldier writing from Bagdad tells of meeting a crowd of Santal workmen on a bridge of boats there. One of them, with bricks balanced on his head, was playing a small reed pipe; another had stuck a spray of salmon pink oleander in his thick hair, and all were scurrying and hurrying like a flock of sheep, all were grinning and pop eyed. They had no rush order to handle. But, some one of them had started to run and scamper at his task and the others joined in the fun.

When the Santal left his home in Bengal to walk to the nearest railway to keep his word to a white man all he took with him was two brass cooking pots, a staff and a bottle of mustard oil. On board the boat he saw coal for the first time. A scuttleful was given him to cook his food, and he and his fellows set their brass pots on the black mass and expected the water to boil.

The British have won their complete confidence now, and they will work all day and all night joyously for their British officers. But a[illegible] that confidence and they will not work at all.

In Mesopotamia they camp together in a palm grove beside the Tigris and are very much at home there. They have none of the Hindu religious scruples against food cooked by heathens. They eat what is given them with much relish, though for some reason they will not touch rice cooked by a Brahman. In the famine of [illegible] they died in great numbers rather than eat rice cooked and distributed by Brahmans. The Santals have a tradition to account for their prejudice.

OLD C.C.N.Y.'S FIRST HOME AN ADVANCED NIGHT SCHOOL

THE old brick building at Lexington avenue and Twenty-third street, which until a few years ago was the home of the College of the City of New York and which has been standing idle and dilapidated since the college moved to Washington Heights in 1908, has been mended and painted and made habitable again. The property never has passed out of the hands of the city, though the building has been threatened with demolition many times. It still belongs to City College. In this building is now housed the new branch of City College, the night school department, where every mature resident of Greater New York may, without payment of the usual college fees or without passing the customary college requirements, obtain a college education, in certain branches of study.

The new college is designed primarily for those who are working in the daytime, and particularly for those who are employed in the civil service and who wish to fit themselves for advancement, or who wish to enter the civil service. With this end in view the course of study was prepared by the director, Dr. Frederick B. Robinson, in cooperation with officials of the Municipal Civil Service Commission. Mayor Mitchel appointed the committee which worked with Dr. Robinson. These men considered the needs of persons expecting to enter municipal employ as bookkeepers, secretaries, accountants and engineers, but they considered also the needs of persons who wish to prepare for the many other general lines of commercial work in factory, store or business establishment.

The new night school is for all New Yorkers who "never had the advantages of a college education." They must be of age and serious of purpose. That seems to be the only requirement, outside the ability to read and write. Those who can pass certain examinations such as ordinarily would admit them to college will be enrolled free. For the others there is a fee of $2.50 a point for the term. Thus, a student taking a course for the half year which is given four nights a week would be charged $10.

But even with the high cost of living the tuition fee seems to deter very few, for already more than 2,000 have enrolled and the line still is long of those who are waiting to sign their names. There are approximately twenty-five courses of study to be given at the Lexington avenue branch. These fall under the heads of commerce, accountancy and general economics. The professors and instructors, according to Dr. Robinson, are the best authorities in their particular subjects obtainable. In many cases they have been conspicuous in Government work, or on public commissions of one sort or another, while several have written noteworthy books. All have the indorsement of the board of trustees, of which George McAneny is chairman.

The work in the department of accountancy prepares a student to become a junior accountant. As such, it is said, he can hold the ordinary office position, and if employed in the municipal civil service, present his certificate in lieu of performing a great amount of other work required for promotion in the merit system. If he is graduated from the school with the C. P. A. (certified public accountant) he is qualified for any work an accountant, as such, may be called upon to do.

The night school was started a year ago. At that time courses were provided at the main college, with extension departments in Brooklyn and at the Municipal Building. These branches, it is understood, will be continued. At the college buildings on Washington Heights the night courses will be confined to engineering subjects and academic subjects such as are not given at Lexington avenue. Dr. Robinson, outlining the aims of the college, said:

"The college is increasing the opportunities it offers to persons employed during the day in the great industries of New York city. It is also making special efforts to train persons for public service and to increase the efficiency of those already in the civil service. It is highly desirable to instruct persons in the civil service with a view to increasing their efficiency in the grades they now occupy and to prepare them for advancement to higher grades. After many conferences with the Civil Service Commission's engineering and accounting experts and other authorities, the college now offers courses of study for persons in the civil service of the city, ranging from the lower grades of bookkeeper, accountant, secretary and clerk, right up to the highest divisions of executive, engineering and auditing branches of the service.

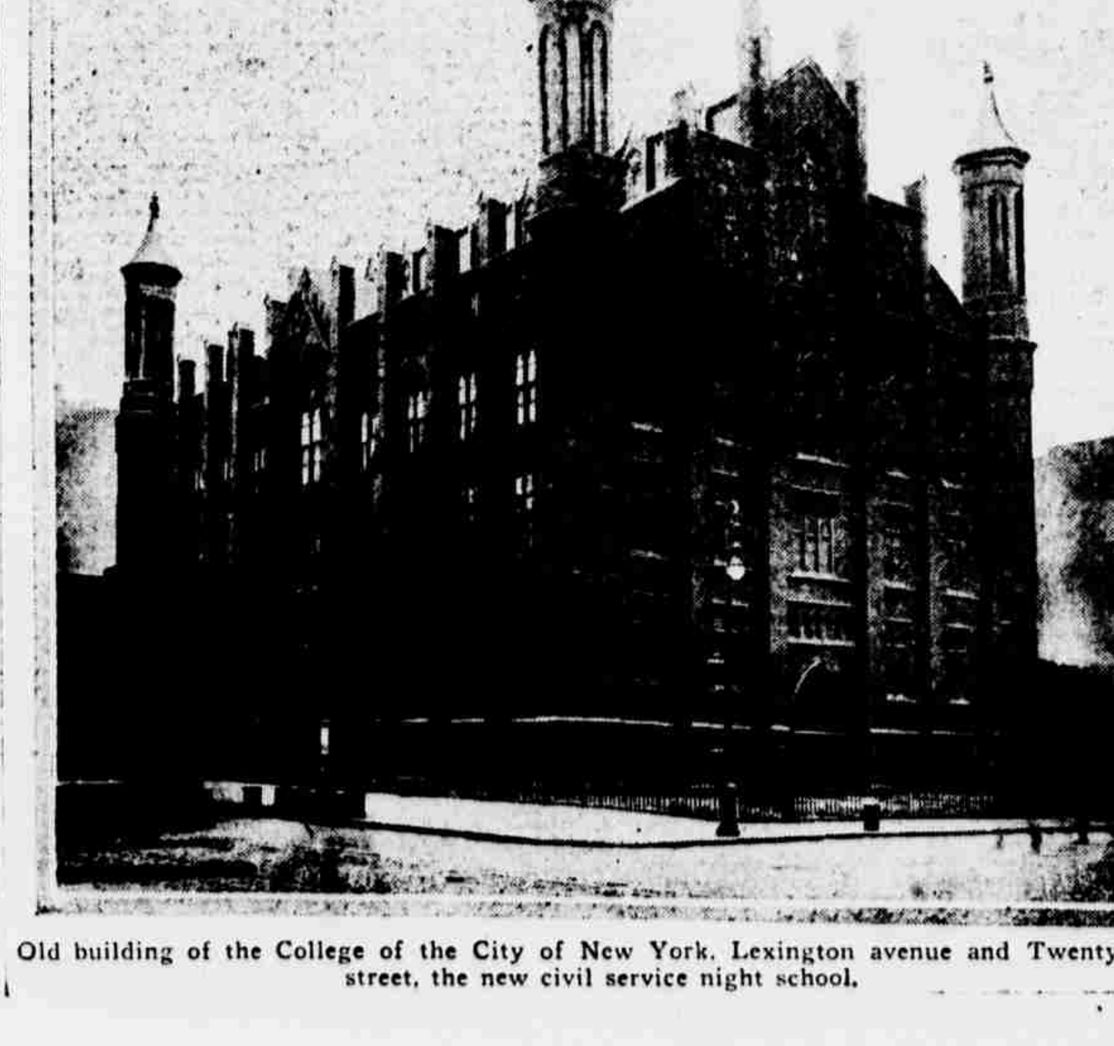
"The Civil Service Commission has approved the courses of study as standard educational preparations for the various grades to which they refer. Persons in the city's employ availing themselves of our work will be consciously preparing for advancement in dignified careers which will bring reward on the merit basis."

The new college courses were made possible by a recent act of the State Legislature amending the charter of the City of New York. It authorized giving additional extra-curricular courses of study and also provided for financing the work by a system of moderate fees.

To make the old building at Lexington avenue and Twenty-third street adequate to its new purpose has cost the city $30,000, it is said. Many persons who have passed it in the last few days have wondered at its aspect of new life and have inquired as to what was going on inside its walls. To the new New Yorker the structure might have been up to a short time ago a deserted asylum of some sort or an abandoned church. Certainly it did not look like a college. To the old New Yorker, to the man who like Gen. Goethals once studied his ablative absolute and Newton's Law in that old red brick building, sheltered from the sun as it now is by higher buildings, it looks very familiar, despite the changes that have come.

The structure to the old New Yorker always has and always will be known as the original home of free higher education. It has been a landmark in that part of the city ever since the land thereabouts was part of the city. In fact when it was erected in 1847 adjoining property was an open field. No houses stood between it and the present Gramercy Park. From the site vessels could be seen sailing on East River. North of it along the general line of Lexington avenue there was a settlement of villa houses known as Rose Hill.

The architect was James Renwick, who designed Grace Church, St. Patrick's Cathedral and many other of New York's most beautiful buildings. It is of Gothic architecture, with suggestion of the French chateau style. Between the tiers of windows are buttresses and at each corner a hexagonal turret finished with a sort of minaret. To build it cost $28,000, or nine cents a cubic foot. It is said to be the most economically constructed public edifice ever erected here.



Old building of the College of the City of New York, Lexington avenue and Twenty-third street, the new civil service night school.

CITY MAN INVOKES LAW OF COMPENSATION ON FARMER

"I USED to consider confidence men highly unsportsmanlike and even immoral on account of their treatment of farmers and other visitors to the city from rural parts; but now if I heard of a grafter who had been jailed for separating a farmer from his cash I think I would try to bail him out."

The man who had listened in silence while the others in the little group at the club related their vacation experiences spoke with such heat that no one ventured to interrupt him with a question.

"Emerson, gentlemen," the speaker continued, "has defined the law of compensation and has demonstrated its workings. I can see no reason why it should not work in the case of farmer and urbanite.

"I refer only to that particular class of sturdy agriculturists whose work lies not so much in making two blades of grass grow where formerly only one flourished, but in making two summer boarders live where formerly only one horse munched his oats.

"My case last summer was a typical instance of the rural confidence game. I fell for one of those Garden of Eden with all modern improvements advertisements of a farm situated in a little place on the seashore somewhere in New England, and departed with my wife and children. You know the rest as well as I do if you have ever left the city on pleasure bent.

"The villa was a battered farmhouse. The owner proudly informed me that it had housed a General during the War of 1812. I would have believed him after inspecting it if he had told me the Vikings had spent a week end there during their first cruise to this shore.

"I cannot say whether the food was good or not—I never got enough of it at one time to form an opinion. If Hoover had seen the menu he would have shed tears of joy. The original rooms of the farmhouse had been partitioned off into spaces about the size of the rooms in a Harlem flat. There were plenty of fresh vegetables growing in the fields, but they were expressed to the city and the canned variety was imported for the benefit of the summer boarders. The cows gave rich yellow milk, but when it appeared on the table it was as blue as the sky above and just about as nourishing.

"If you wanted to go out riding you could—at a price per hour that would make a New York cabman blush like a four alarm fire. The driving horses were perfectly safe—they had been retired from active work on the farm a number of years before, and their best gait was a three legged hop, skip and stumble that got them over the ground at the rate of two and three-quarter miles an hour.

"Boating, bathing and fishing were other attractions of the place. The boating was interesting and even exciting. One man was needed to bail the boat while another rowed frantically for shore, with the third hoisting signals of distress.

"The bathing was really great if you didn't mind a beach made of clam shells, seaweed and rocks and bathing houses that fitted as [illegible] size thirty sweater on a fort[illegible] man. There should have been many fish there, for nobody [illegible] succeeded in diminishing the s[illegible]

"But it is not so much what happened last year that makes [illegible] bitter as what I know will [illegible] next year. Just as soon as [illegible] comes round my family will [illegible] hankering to leave our comf[illegible] quarters, first run movies, stre[illegible] fresh vegetables and [illegible] some half baked, two spot summer [illegible]sort where they can enjoy [illegible] discomforts of rural life until [illegible] seems like heaven again.

"The only thing that cheers [illegible] is that the farmer who got [illegible] last summer is going to lose [illegible] gets an itching to come to [illegible] winter. If the law of compe[illegible] is still on the job a well equipped confidence man with the latest [illegible] money making machines, [illegible] bride stocks or brass b[illegible] to uphold the prestige of the [illegible] gold up the product of the [illegible]